

of the Biological Board; I was not. More than that, I am not considering the interests of the employees of the department. I am looking at this matter chiefly from the public point of view. I have an idea that the board is a valuable public institution, and I would not like to see it destroyed either directly or indirectly.

There is just one remark that I would make about the letter of the minister. He does not give a single fact or a single detail upon which to base our judgment. If he would tell us what it is that makes it such an urgent necessity to pass this Bill, we could form an opinion on it. In the meantime, while I do not want to obstruct any Bill brought forward by the Government, as I am on the committee, I would like to understand what we are doing, and would like to hear some persons who are outside of both the department and the board.

Hon. Mr. DANIEL: Honourable gentlemen, I do not see exactly why it is that the committee and some of the members of this Chamber take the stand that this is an independent research board. From the fact that it is a branch of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, I take it that it is a board appointed for the purpose of studying the biology of fish, and consequently that it is not a general research board at all, and does not hold the position of an independent board. I believe that after the Health Department is established there will be a research board attached to that department, which in a sense may be a biological board. I imagine that it will have to do with the general health of the community and will not be a general board of research any more than this one is. I take it that the Biological Board that we are dealing with to-day is a branch of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and as such, in my opinion, it would be under the control of the minister in charge of that department.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: We will take this up again, this afternoon.

The Senate adjourned at one o'clock.

Second Sitting.

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

PENSIONS BILL.

FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED moved that Bill 158, an Act to provide pensions to or in respect of members of the Canadian Naval, Military and Air forces, do now pass.

Hon. Mr. ROSS.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Is my honourable friend prepared to make an explanation as to the meaning of paragraph i of the interpretation clause?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: The meaning of the clause is this. There is a class of man who, although he served overseas, say under the Militia Act, or under the Military Service Act, or by attestation or declaration, is to-day under the Militia Act by reason of his being a member of the Permanent Force. If honourable gentlemen will follow, they will see that the intention of the paragraph is to exclude the members of the Permanent Force who served overseas, who have returned, and who after the declaration of peace will revert to their former status as members of the Permanent Force under the Militia Act. It is intended to provide that they shall not be, in the language of the Bill, "members of the forces," and that they shall not avail themselves of this Pension Act. This Bill makes provision for very much larger allowances than the members of the Permanent Force would be entitled to outside of their having been members of the Expeditionary Force. That is to say, when they cease to be members of the Expeditionary Force and revert to the Permanent Force, they can only take advantage of the pensions provisions made under the Militia Act, which provisions are very much less than these. While the language of paragraph i may seem complicated, yet when one is familiar with what is intended, it becomes quite clear—at least in my judgment.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: The explanation which the honourable leader of the Government has given is quite clear. I do not know whether people will be able to understand the language of the paragraph or whether they must have this explanation in order to interpret it.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Let me read this slowly, so that I may, if I can, make it clear to the minds of honourable gentlemen listening:

"Member of the forces" means any person who was enlisted, enrolled or drafted during the war (i) for service in the military forces of Canada on active service, (ii) for service on the high seas in the naval forces of Canada, or (iii) for service in the air forces of Canada.

That covers the three branches of the service.

Provided, however, that after the Declaration of Peace, the words "member of the forces"